The admission of pupils of the depressed classes.

121. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they had any occasion to give punishment to any school authorities for not admitting pupils of the depressed classes in their schools ; if so, which are they ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—No.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Hon'ble Member for Education be pleased to give me the approximate number of schools in which there are no pupils of the depressed classes?

Mr. C. Matthai.—There are altogether 140 schools of this sort out of a total of 540.

President.—He wants the number of schools in which there are no depressed classes.

Mr. C. Matthai.—There are 140 schools out of 540.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Is there any school which refused to give admission to the depressed classes ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—You cannot say exactly that they refused admission. I remember, a few weeks back, I had a case. When some pupils of the depressed classes were admitted in a certain school, the result was that all the other pupils went out. In such cases, I do not think it is possible to admit them.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—What was the action taken ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—I cannot take any action. In the Chelakkara School we have made considerable progress within the last 4 years, and to-day there is a boy in the I Form.

President.—When the depressed classes seek admission, they are not admitted by the school.

Mr. C. Matthai.—If the school admits them, it finds itself empty the next day, as all the other boys go out.

President.—Then, the depressed classes must be taught.

Mr. C. Matthai.—There are only one or two boys.

President —Then, we need not give grant to that school.

Mr. C. Matthai.—It happens to be a Government school.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That is not the answer which I wanted. My question is whether there are any school authorities who refused to give admission to the depressed classes.

Mr. C. Matthai.—None that I know of.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Is it a fact that the Tirumala Devaswam School authorities refused to give admission to the depressed class students ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The school authorities did not do so of their own accord. The Tirumala Devaswam High School is situated near the temples near which the depressed classes cannot go. I have already mentioned that on several occasions.

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Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know whether the Hon'ble Member has come to know that there are schools in my constituency in which there is not a single depressed class pupil and whether any steps are taken, and if so, what is the step taken by the Government to remove this situation ?

President.—If, in your constituency, there are schools in which the authorities refuse to give admission to the depressed class pupils who come and seek admission, then, of course, the department can answer.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That I do not see.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Is the department to go in search of depressed class students? What is the use of putting such irrelevant questions? I may also say for the Hon'ble Member's information that I have issued special circulars in the matter, and the school authorities are expected to obey them.

President.—When I inspected some of the schools with Mr. Matthai, the first question we asked was "How many depressed class students are there? Are you trying to get more? Are they sitting side by side with other caste-Hindu students, etc.?" Thus you cannot say the school authorities are not interested in these matters. Some depressed class students are being given a concession. Mr. Matthai, what is the concession given to such of them as are going up to higher classes ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—We give them three rupees monthly.

Now, as regards the progress of the students. If you look back to the previous 12 years, you will see there were only half-a dozen depressed class students, whereas 6 years ago we had two dozen, and this year we have more than 500. That shows the progress.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—May I know the name of the school which refuses to give admission to these people ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The place is Killimangalam. We had the same difficulty in Chelakkara about four years ago. When first the depressed class people were brought there, there were all sorts of difficulties, and we insisted that they should be given admission as long as a boy was there. The result was that next year we found no difficulty; and to-day we find that the boy who was brought four years ago is in the First Form sitting side by side with the Brahmin and other caste-Hindu boys. I asked the teachers to bring in depressed class pupils at Killimangalam. We got only two pupils at the beginning of this year. Next morning all the rest disappeared.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In Puturutti also you had the same difficulty. Had you not ?

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Mr. C. Matthai.—It is in the Veloor School, and the boy is now in the Third Form.

President.—Is it not the boy under your special protection, Mr. Raja?

122. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state what are the special concessions granted to pupils of the depressed classes in the different departments of schools?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Vide answer to question No. 103 of the Vrischigam sitting of 1101. Besides the concessions referred to therein, the Government have since sanctioned stipends to such pupils in the High School Forms at the rate laid down for Muhammadan boys in Note 4, Art. 71 (c)—C. E. C.

Moral instruction.

123. **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have laid down any definite syllabus in the matter of teaching moral instruction in schools; if so, will they be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Vide pages 116 and 117 of *the Education Code*, Vol. II.

The duty of Panchayats regarding schools.

124. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Considering that the activities of a school are teaching and administering, will the Government be pleased to state what the Panchayats should report upon after visiting the schools?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The Panchayats may report on the general working of the schools, on the attendance and strength during their visits, on any irregularity that may come to their notice in regard to the working of the schools, on the condition of the school buildings, etc.

125. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it realises that as ordinary laymen, Panchayatdars may not be able to pass any useful remark on the teaching side, and if wants and defects in the conduct of schools are also to be outside their view, will the Government be pleased to state definitely what it expects the Panchayats to report upon?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Panchayatdars may be able to pass useful remarks on the teaching side and about wants and defects in the working of schools. Reasonable suggestions made by Panchayats will be duly considered by the department, and necessary remedial measures taken.

126. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it expects the Panchayats as a body to visit schools, or members authorised by the Panchayat?

Mr. C. Matthai.—A Panchayat may visit a school as a body or authorise individual members thereof to do so, but the

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